Memo

To: Lesley Nalley, CEO
From: Brad Meredith, Lakes Ecology & Fisheries Manager
       Bill R. Staggs, PE, CFM - Public Works Director
       Linda Mayhood, COO

Date: April 19, 2017
Re: Motion – Lake Balboa Monitoring and Control of Hydrilla

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Motion

I move to approve the proposal (Bidder 2, Option 1), Estate Management Services, for the Monitoring and Control of Hydrilla in Lake Balboa utilizing SonarOne not to exceed, $213,914.91.

Background

The Lakes Department is requesting approval of a proposed contract for Lake Monitoring and Control of Hydrilla at Lake Balboa. Hydrilla was discovered in the summer of 2016, and after study and evaluation of alternative methods of control of the invasive plant, the decision was made to stock sterile carp up to 10 fish per estimated infested acre, and to seek assistance with the recommendation and application of herbicide.

Lakes Department requested proposals for treatment of up to 450 acres of vegetative coverage from companies with extensive experience in the application and monitoring of herbicides for the control of Hydrilla in lakes of similar size and infestation as Lake Balboa.

Proposals were received from two companies with such previous experience. Both proposals were thorough in detail and provided the requested information. Staff recommends acceptance from the low bidder (option 1) as noted bold below.

Bidder 1
- Total proposal for services, application, and herbicide (SonarOne granular) was $241,622.00

Bidder 2
- Two alternatives were provided for herbicide application:

Option 1) Total proposal for services, application, and SonarOne granular was $213,914.91.
Option 2) Total proposal for services, application, and Aquathol K liquid was $161,820.00 per application of 450 acres.

Bill Staggs, Public Works Director, and Brad Meredith, Lakes Ecology and Fisheries Manager reviewed the proposals and have had a subsequent telephone conference with the Estate Management Services to obtain clarifications on certain aspects of their proposal.

SonarOne is a granular product that is best applied within two weeks of observation of hydrilla growth. The application will be in three treatment periods separated by thirty days. This product is for “whole lake” treatment as there will be dissipation of the granules. Concentrations of herbicide in Lake Balboa will be monitored following the applications. At the prescribed rates, the concentration will be maintained at a level low enough for safe watering, swimming, and fishing with no restrictions. Product warranty from the manufacturer is 80 percent control after one year. After one year, if the 80 percent control guarantee is not achieved, SePRO (the manufacturer of SonarOne) would provide the product and labor required to meet that guarantee at no charge to Hot Springs Village Property Owners’ Association.

Aquathol K is a liquid contact herbicide that is recommended for application of an actively growing plant with growth up to half the water depth in infested areas. It is a strategic application more confined to the area of treatment, but does have minor watering restrictions. The treatment has a “burn down” effect on the plant and lasts approximately seven weeks. Application would likely be over fewer acres due to strategic application, but would possibly need to be repeated for subsequent growth. A second application could extend the treatment into early September, and a third application is possible in spring 2018. Treatment of over 450 acres will incur additional costs at $359.60 per acre.

Both treatments are totally dependent upon anticipated, but not proven, return of the hydrilla in Lake Balboa. Lake Millwood, a US Army Corps of Engineers lake in southern Arkansas, experienced the anomaly of hydrilla not returning after a previous year of infestation. The decision for when to make the first application would be made after the re-appearance of the hydrilla.

The carp population would need to be monitored to maintain the proper number of fish per vegetated acreage. Carp populations should be restocked at an expected annual mortality of 20 percent.

This item was not included in the approved Lakes Budget for 2017 as a plan for treatment was not formulated until after the budget process was complete. Monies for this project will be made available from the 2017 Capital Equipment Budget.